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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Public Administration, Human Resources
and Social Development Division

PROGRESS REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS IN 1990

December 1990

Fellowship Activities 1990
January - December

1. The fellowship programme came into being following the request of ECA member Governments in 1965 for assistance in identifying and securing training opportunities in development oriented fields for their nationals.

2. At the first Conference of Ministers responsible for human resources planning, development and autilization held 5-7 October 1981, member States were urged to step up their contributions in supporting the expanded training and fellowship programme materially and financially. In addition, an appeal was made to existing faculties and institutions in member States to communicate to ECA designating their training capabilities and fields of fellowships that could be made available to naticnals of other African countries. ECA was again mandated to serve as co-ordinator of, and clearing house for information on training and facilities as well as to mobilize recources to support the programme. The Conference recommended however that member States strengthen their administrative machineries for the administration and co-ordination of fellowship programme activities.

3. In the early years of the programme, most of the fellowship offers were made by non-African countries for training in the offering country. Then in 1977 the Conference of Ministers passed Commission resolution 306 (XIII), which called upon the Secretariat, inter alia, to take action aimed at fostering inter-African co-operation in manpower development, and Commission resolution 318(XIII), which inter alia, called for "the mobilization of resources for the operation of a training and fellowship programme for Africa". In response to these directives and in accordance with the guidelines established by the Lagos Plan of Action for co-operation and collective self-reliance in human resources development, the Secretariat intensified its effort to mobilize recources for training within Africa, as well as for training overseas.

4. In this connection the African Ministers responsible for human resources planning, development and utilization, meeting in Monrovia in October 1981 urged ECA member Governments to provide financial support for the ECA co-ordinated Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa. The Programme has received contributions of fellowships-in-kind from the Governments of Libya and Morocco. Financial support has been given by the Governments of Lesotho, Nigeria and Somalia. But any form of cash input into the programme ended in 1984.

During the Ministerial Conference in Khartoum, the Sudan in 1988 the same request was tabled.

The Secretariat therefore intensified activities to comply with the expressed urgent wishes of its member States.

5. Efforts to implement these decisions have been constrained by a number of structural problems including thelack of adequate financing. Despite these, some progress was made. However, a little more commitment and active participaion of member States, particularly to make the programme self-reliant, would greatly enhance the implementation of the Monrovia decisions. The objective of this paper is to review the programme content, progress, achievements and constraints and to suggest for consideration, needed action if the Conference decisions and the Lagos Plan of Action are to be implemented.

Programme Design and Objectives

6. In response to the decisions of the Conference, a broader programme was designed to specifically;

(a) Develop and operate substantially enlarged training and fellowship activities directly related to the critical manpower requirements of member States in priority development sectors and projects;

(b) Maximize the use of existing post-secondary and other specialized educational and training facilities in the region by fostering technical co-operation among African States in mnapower training;

(c) Strengthen existing African institutions through staff development and co-operation in developing specialized courses:

(d) Promote the establishement of multinational training and research programmes and institutions in disciplines and skills areas where the region lacks adequate local training facilities;

(e) Provide seed money from the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development for the purpose of mobilizing additional resources from African and non-African sources for financing training; and

(f) Use non-African training and fellowship opportunities for specialized advance training of Africans in fields where member States are anxious to acquire technology, operational and management skills and know-how.

7. In addition to specifying the above objectives, several areas, though not exhaustive of member States manpower development needs, were identified as priority areas. Included in these are the following:

(a) Manpower for basic industry and agriculture
(b) Graduate training in specialized discipline
(c) Training in science, engineering and technology
(d) Training of teachers and instructors
(e) Group training of African technical and managerial executives
(f) Training in budget and financial management and tax administration
(g) In-Plant or practical training in the management of public enterprises and development projects for nationals of the least developed and newly independent African countries
(h) Training in solar energy

Action initiated by ECA

8. During the reporting period, the ECA initiated and executed the following activities in relation to the fellowship and trianing programme.

(a) Formal communications were sent to all member States to bring the programme to their attention, seek their support for it, as donors and users, and request that they should indicate their specific training needs in relation to the priority training fields outlined in the project document. Member States were also requested to provide concrete support to the programme in the form of both cash grants and fellowship offers;

(b) Formal invitations were issued to several non-African Governments, bilateral organizations and foundations in both developed and developing countries to participate in the programme and promote African collective self-reliance through manpower training;

(c) Morocco and Libya offered a few fellowships in-kind. Other national institutions have expressed their willingness to do likewise. But so far nothing concrete has been received.

Summary of achievements

9. Despite major constraints as specified below, the programme experienced some modest accomplishments. This consists of fellowships-in-kind. The Secretariat acts as a clearing house including announcing the programmes, receiving applications, screening them, sending them to appropriate donors and communicating results.

60 fellowships were obtained under the programme in 1990. Attached in tabular form is a brief record of the distribution of the offers received in 1990 by (a) donor country, (b) recipients, (c) nationality, (d) age, (e) sex and (f) fields of study.

A. Bulgaria

85 candidates were submitted and 3 were selected as follows:

1.	Bachkara El Mustapha	Morocco	M	26	Humanitarian
2.	Bah Abu Bakaor	S/Leone	M	21	Economics
3.	Mutombo Muyumba	Zaire	M	21	Medicine

B. Czechoslovakia

36 candidates submitted and 4 selected as follows:

1.	Peter Onama Nathaniel	Sudan	M	25	Veterinary
2.	Tshimnaga Kalaka	Zaire	M	24	Engineering
3.	Djimbaaye Philomene	Chad	F	20	Engineering

C. GDR

48 candidates submitted and 5 selected as follows.

1.	Mulaw Ghebreselassie	Ethiopia	M	25	Dietetic
2.	Charles Mensah Cofie	Ghana	M	20	Medicine
3.	Benyamin Kommey	Ghana	M	24	Engineering
4.	Mohamed Abdullahi Awali	Somalia	M	--	Agricualutre
5.	Sakr Bob Kaifala	S/Leone	M	25	Education

D. India

Submissions carried out all year round and so far some 33 submissions have been made and 4 followships received as follows:

1.	Thomas Joseph Navo	S/Leone	M	Primary Education
2.	Logworong Kenyi Elinatham	Sudan	M	Maintenance Eng.
3.	Abdul Marout Ruffa	S/Leone	M	Statistics
4.	Fetz John Barnette	S/Leone	M	--

E. Poland

17 dossiers have been submitted and 3 offers received as follows:

1.	Agora Kebede Feyssa	Ethiopia	M	23	Agriculture
2.	Sahily Desalegne	Ethiopia	M	24	Bacteriology
3.	Mohammed Bangara	S/Leone	M	--	Nat. Eco. Planning

F. Turkey

8 candidates were submitted and one fellowship offered as follows:

1.	Gatete Ngasa Sandra	Rwanda	F	20	Biology

G. USSR

132 candidates wer submitted and 33 offers received as follows:

1.	Ali Abdou Razak Mbhe	Comoreo	M	23	Agriculutre
2.	Abduol-Madjidi Soilihi	Comoro	M	22	Medicine
3.	Tegnework Fetene	Ethiopia	M	22	Medicine
4.	Tsedey Eshetu W/Michael	Ethiopia	M	20	--
5.	Messay Girma Beyene	Ethiopia	M	20	Agriculture
6.	Terefe Belete Tessema	Ethiopia	M	22	E. Management
7.	Gashaw Ahmed Ebrie	Ethiopia	M	18	Plant Protection
8.	Asfash G/Yohannes	Ethiopia	F	20	--
9.	Biruk Zewdu Tsegay	Ethiopia	M	19	Agronomy
10.	Tegene Getachew Tekeba	Ethiopia	M	21	Irrigation
11.	Solomon Wondimu Zerabruk	Ethiopia	M	18	Plant Protection
12.	Elias Zemaye Asfaw	Ethiopia	M	--	Agronomy
13.	Elias Tefera Zewdie	Ethiopia	M	22	--
14.	Mulugeta Melaku Abdo	Ethiopia	M	23	Radio Com. & Broad
15.	Robel Abebe Terefe	Ethiopia	M	19	Computer Prog.
16.	Yusuf Abdulwasie Mohammed	Ethiopia	M	18	Mil Prod. Techno.
17.	Tewodros Taddese Kassaye	Ethiopia	M	21	Computer Progr.
18.	Mammo Tekle Haile	Ethiopia	M	19	Mining
19.	Detamo Juhar Mohamed	Ethiopia	M	18	Chemistry
20.	Wainshet Jember Berhe	Ethiopia	F	23	Physics & Maths
21.	Biniam Assefa Muluneh	Ethiopia	M	19	Chemistry
22.	Elias Tiro Tiklo	Ethiopia	M	23	Eco. Social Planning
23.	Belay Tefera Anteneh	Ethiopia	M	19	Intern. Economics
24.	Degene Abdissa Mergia	Ethiopia	M	20	Electronics
25.	Samuel BerhaneGebre	Ethiopia	M	20	--
26.	Tesfaye Kebede Soba	Ethiopia	M	20	---
27.	Meseret Fekade	Ethiopia	F	20	--
28.	Selamawit Admassu	Ethiopia	F	20	--
29.	Alasan Sesay	S/Leone	M	29	Electronics
30.	Grey Samuel M. Maurice	S/Leone	M	26	Fish Tech.
31.	Nabie Musa Suma	S/Leone	M	20	Economics
32.	Amin Elhag M. Ibrahim	Sudan	M	18	--
33.	Svetlana Mattaha	Tanzania	F	18	Medicine

It should perhaps be indicated that though all fellowships offered under the programme effective 1984 have been only fellowships-in-kind, in monetary terms and considering that it would cost some US$10,000 per annum to train a student in donor institutions, the monetary value of the 60 offers received in 1990 for the average of the 6 years it would take a candidate to qualify, would amount to some US$2,904,000.

Future of the Programme

10. There are several bottlenecks which if not removed could hinder the future of the programme. These are briefly considered below.

(a) Financial constraint

The funding of the programme is perhaps the major constraint. It also happens to be at the center of the whole idea of intra-African co-operation in the Training and Fellowship Programme. Member States will have to support the programme. We can accept help from friends but not depend on them indefinitely.

(b) Administrative Support

One really and honestly feels that the programme is receiving very marginal support. The Section was originally manned by 3 professionals and 2 general service staff. In the course of the past 5 years, there has been only 2 professionals. All the campaigning for resources emanating from the Section is done from the desk at the ECA by mail, ECA never sent fellowship officers to the Meeting of Fellowship Officers of the common system. Whatever benefits any such exposures could have yielded have been continually lost to the ECA. Perhaps missions sensitizing member States as to the pressing need to make some form of contribution, after so many meetings and resolutions, might have yielded some fruits especially now that developments in East Europe might not make it possible for the regular donors to continue any longer.

(c) Status of the Programme

With the amount of work being handled by the programme, it was considered very essential for it to have a certain measure of autonomy. Internal arrangements were made for the Unit to work directly with the Director of the Division to minimize on the administrative delays that go with any chain of bureaucracy. Although Headquarters did not accord it this status a relook at this situation is necessary to enable the "Unit" have necessary status to negotiate and act.

(d) Communication with Member States

This item might sound minor but has some significance. In the Correspondence with member States and with donors/institutions that offer Africa training places, in so many cases documents are either received late or incomplete, by the time the Secretariat gets them in order donors deadlines expire. One may not need to mention the obvious problem of communication between African Institutions and Africa Hall - telephones, telegrammes etc.

Some problems and constraints have been encountered in the execution of the programme in the area of communication between the Secretariat and member States. Lately the Section was notified by the Administration that the numerous correspondence emanating from the Section can no longer be entertained. As of now all activities of the Section have been halted, all that is being done is sorting out of the numerous correspondence by category and piling them up awaiting a solution to the mailing problem. In effect, the 4 professionals in the section sort out correspondence and stack them pending a decision regarding their despatch.

Lately UNDP Zaire returned all application forms that had been sent for use by Zairian applicants giving as reasons the cost and extra work involved for which the office has no budget etc. Quite possibly other offices might react the same way. Various options have been considered, e.g. using the ECA 5 MULPOCs, and Embassies. However ECA has MULPOCs in only 5 countries and there are 52 member States of ECA, each as anxious as the other to secure training opportunities for its nationals. One can say that unless some more appropriate channel of getting fellowship materials to African nationals were accepted, a situation will definitely arise where even the few places given by donors will not be utilized for want of candidates; secondly, unless something is done immediately, then there will be no need to have a fellowship section as no end is served collecting and piling up correspondence that is not even acted upon.

Conclusion and needed Action

11. (a) The fellowship programme came into being following needs expressly voiced out by ECA member States and that need is even growing with time. It was further felt that African governments should bear the cost of training of their nationals, by making monetary contributions or by offering places in their institutions. However, apart from Nigeria, Somalia, Libya, Morocco and Lesotho which made (i) financial contributions (ii) places available in their institutions, no other African country has been forthcoming inspite of numerous reminders.

(b) The only donors under the programme are, as of now, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, GDR, India, Poland, Turkey and the USSR.

(c) Following the recent developments in Europe and especially in Eastern Europe, the fellowship section wrote to the 7 regular donors listed in the last paragraph requesting reconfirmation of their continued support. As of now no such reconfirmation has been received, this then raises some questions.

(d) It should further be noted that ECA is a passive actor in the fellowship award programme, it can only plead with the willing donors on whose good will it hopes without being in a position to influence their decisions either (i) in continuing the award (ii) in increasing the number of offers, (iii) in selecting beneficiaries.

(e) Finally it should be noted that ECA has a serious commitment to facilitate a continuation of the programme by

(i) making available funds for the correspondence which is the main intermediate activity of the programme and without which the programme will certainly collapse and by mobilizing resources if the programme is to continue. For the level of training that could be pursued within Africa, some funds might be allocated, no matter how modest, perhaps some US$500,000 (five hundred thousand only). As a result of the monetary fluctuations or rather currency fluctuations following SAP, the above input well managed could perhaps carry the programme for a good number of years.

(ii) action could be undertaken to minimize the structural constraints at the national, regional and international levels,

(iii) need for rededication of commitment to foster inter-regional co-operation in the field of fellowship and training.